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AUTHORITY

AGO/DA ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (6 May 68) FOR OT RD 681124

8 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 73d
Signal Battalion (Spt), Period Ending 31 January 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

FOR OT RD WASH D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

C. A. Stanfield

C. A. STANFIELD
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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73d Signal Battalion

MAY 24 1968

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 73RD SIGNAL BATTALION (SPT)
APO US Forces 96312

SCCVNG-SS-OP

31 January 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65)

TO:

Reference: 21st Signal Gp Reg 1-19, dated 8 April 1967, Subj: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65).

SECTION I

Significant Organization or Unit Activities

1. General: The 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt) was activated on 26 March 1963 at Fort Bragg, N.C. and arrived in Vietnam in July 1966. The mission of the battalion is: "To direct and coordinate operations of a signal battalion consisting of two to seven signal companies providing VHF, Microwave and Tropospheric communications throughout the Republic of Vietnam and provide the facilities with which the Battalion Commander controls the battalion." "To provide consolidated administration and supplemental supply, motor and signal maintenance for the Battalion."

Captain Walter D. Huber assumed command of Company C, 41st Signal Battalion on 1 December 1967, replacing Captain James D. Nye who departed to attend the Officer Career Course at Quantico Marine Base Virginia. Captain Nye received the Bronze Star for meritorious service upon his departure. Captain Billy M. Thomas assumed command of Company E, 43rd Signal Battalion, on 18 January 1968, replacing Captain Robert L. Berner. Captain Berner has been assigned the duties of Battalion S-2 officer, operations officer, and assistant S-3.

Company D, 43rd Signal Battalion, and the 362nd Signal Company (Tropo) received Command Maintenance Management Inspections (CMMI) during the reporting period. Both units received satisfactory ratings.

On 28 November 1967, Major Foy E. Privette assumed the duties of S-3 vice Major Charles E. Chaffers who was reassigned to 1st Infantry Division.

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On 3 December 1967 Major Privette, was awarded 2 Bronze Stars, one with V device for Valor and one for meritorious achievement for his actions while serving with 2/503rd Airborne Infantry Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On 30 January 1968 Lieutenant Colonel Maurice J. Castillo assumed command of the 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt) at Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam vice Lieutenant Colonel Glenn S. Meader.

Headquarters, 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt), HHD, 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt), Company G, 43rd Signal Battalion, and the 362nd Signal Company (Tropo) all received training inspections by 21st Signal Group during the reporting period. All units received satisfactory ratings and discrepancies noted have been corrected.

The Battalion was operational for the entire 92 day reporting period.

2. Activities: All units in the Battalion are continuing to emphasize improvement of compounds and sites, both in the area of physical security and troop facilities.

The Dalat Area Exchange, which is operated by the 362nd Signal Company (Tropo), has been enlarged and is providing better service to all personnel in the area.

A large troop billet and a mess hall extension was completed on LBN by elements of the 14th Engineer Battalion. The mess hall extension permits the seating of an additional 28 men per meal setting and has greatly improved sanitation in the kitchen area.

D Company, 43rd Signal Battalion upgraded their company administration by completely revising the unit SOP, filing system and courier service. The unit also recomputed and revised its entire PLL.

HHD, 73rd Signal Battalion, constructed a new enlarged supply room, built several new defensive personnel bunkers, and revoted all billet areas.

C Company, 41st Signal Battalion, improved its unit area by repairing all walkways, relocating and expanding the dayroom and constructing drainage ditches.

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The motor pool of E Company, 43rd Signal Battalion, was moved from the LBM signal site to Dalat. This was done because extremely muddy conditions at the site precluded proper maintenance efforts.

3. Personnel:

a. MTOE Authorization:

(1) Emergency authorization for positions within the Battalion Personnel Office was submitted on 9 December 1967. The authorization coincided with the previously submitted MTOE. The Personnel Office continues to operate effectively, however, without approval of the MTOE or the request for emergency authorization, position vacancies against which qualified personnel can be requisitioned are non-existent and eventually the personnel office will become less effective.

(2) Emergency authorization for positions within C Company, 41st Signal Battalion, for communications-center personnel, and cable splicers was submitted on 18 January 1968. This authorization request coincided with the most recently submitted MTOE. These sections are presently operating effectively. However without emergency approval for these MTOE positions, the authority to requisition personnel to fill vacancies is non-existent. Eventually, these sections will become less effective due to loss of personnel.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MTO&E</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>WO</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>EM</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>90 DAY</u> <u>LOSSES</u>
HHD, 73rd Sig Bn	11-116D	14	11	7	2	46	43	11
CoC, 41st Sig Bn	11-87E	4	4	2	2	232	320	71
CoD, 43rd Sig Bn	11-500D	4	5	0	2	103	141	51
CoE, 43rd Sig Bn	11-500D	5	5	1	1	165	164	68
362nd Sig Co	11-500D	30	15	2	1	426	337	92
278th 3rd Plt	11-500D	1	0	1	0	81	68	31
509th Sig Det	"	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
511th Sig Det	"	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
512th Sig Det	"	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
514th Sig Det	"	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
544th Sig Det	"	1	1	0	0	12	14	0
809th Sig Det	"	1	0	0	0	8	7	1

The following is a list of current critical MOS's for this Battalion:

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<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>90 DAY LOSS</u>
05B20	21	10	47.6%	5
05B40	7	2	28.6%	1
05G40	11	3	27.2%	3
31N20	12	4	33.3%	0
31N40	2	1	50.0%	0
31M40	24	14	58.3%	6
31Z40	13	6	46.1%	0
52B20	60	40	66.6%	21
52B30	12	0	.0%	0
67N20	4	0	.0%	0
67R40	1	0	.0%	0
71B30	14	1	.71%	0
72C20	87	46	52.9%	10
76Y40	6	4	66.6%	3

4. Security:

a. Physical:

(1) The rehabilitation of bunkers, revetments and physical perimeter barriers is an area of continuing command emphasis.

(2) Holes in the perimeter fencing at Lang Bian Mountain have been repaired and a new entrance gate constructed and blocked with concertina wire.

(3) Perimeter mortar concentrations have been set in and fixed at Lang Bian Mountain.

(4) The outer defensive posture of D Company, 43rd Signal Battalion, Phan Rang, was completely revamped during the reporting period. Old bunkers were completely torn down and more permanent bunkers constructed through the use of a combination of sand barrels and sand bags. All sand bag revetment and blast walls were rebuilt.

b. Enemy Activity: There were incidents involving enemy activity during the quarter:

(1) On 10 November 1967, the northern perimeter of the Phan Rang Air Base received a short volley of sniper fire. There were no casualties.

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(2) On 8 November 1967, the MACV compound at Gia Nghia received approximately 15 rounds of 82MM CHICOM mortar rounds. There were no casualties.

(3) On 20 December 1967, The Pr'line signal site fired 21 illumination rounds (81 MM) in support of an ARVN operation at Trung-Son Hamlet. There were no casualties.

(4) On 21 December 1967, The Pr'line signal site again fired illumination rounds in support of ARVN at Trung-Son. There were no casualties.

(5) On 4 January 1968, Detachment 17, 362nd Signal Company at Ban Me Thuot, came under a mortar attack lasting 1 hour, 45 minutes. They received between 40 to 50 rounds of 81 MM mortar. There were no injuries to personnel or damage to equipment.

(6) On 8 January 1968, an ARVN convoy was ambushed approximately 5 miles from Gia Nghia. The MACV site went on Red alert for a short period. There were no injuries to American personnel.

5. Training and Organization:

a. Formal Schools: Technical schooling conducted at 1st Signal Brigade level is still the fastest and most reliable method of providing competent technicians able to operate new equipment and instruct OJT at the sites. Only the arrival of functionally trained personnel from CONUS during the next reporting period would tend to reduce the importance of these courses. During the reporting period several problem areas occurred:

(1) Cases of hardship developed where students did not have sufficient funds to defray expenses while at school in Siagon. One individual was rejected from the Toll Test Facilities course for lack of funds. This problem area was eliminated by the following actions:

(a) Quarters and rations are now provided at the school in Siagon.

(b) Students are placed on TDY status thus insuring reimbursement for expenses incurred.

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(2) Excessive quotas to the AN/TRC-24 course were allocated to this unit, making them increasingly difficult to fill, even though mandatory. A survey of requirements conducted by higher headquarters resulted in a reduction in quotas received.

(3) TROPO School Quotas: The 362nd Signal Company (TROPO) desires more allocations to the TROPO Academy in Nha Trang pending the arrival of personnel functionally trained in AN/TRC-90, AN/TRC-90A, AN/TRC-129 and AN/TRC-131 TROPO equipment.

b. OJT and Cross Training:

(1) Although OJT has long been emphasized in the battalion as the most effective means of accomplishing increased PMOS proficiency and cross training, notable progress was again made in the program during the quarter. This was accomplished by bringing more site technical personnel into the program, formalizing instruction by issuing POI's, upgrading lesson plans and directing subordinate units to maintain OJT records as prescribed by directives from higher headquarters.

(2) Benefits to be derived from a successful OJT program:

(a) The individual gains an increased awareness of operation as a team rather than individual basis.

(b) Maintenance standards are improved throughout the battalion thus reducing outage time.

(c) Better qualified and more versatile personnel to provide units with qualification in-depth, thus reducing the impact of critical MOS losses.

(3) OJT Problem Area:

(a) The continuing critical shortage of personnel in certain technical MOS's caused by rotation to CONUS places an added OJT burden on the remaining personnel; shifts are longer, workloads are heavier and fewer qualified instructors are available.

c. Mandatory Training:

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(1) Serious deficiencies in the Mandatory Training Program were corrected by implementing training regulations of higher headquarters. An inspection of training being accomplished by the battalion and subordinate units was conducted by 21st Signal Group personnel on 3-8 December 1967. All units received a rating of satisfactory. Command emphasis is being given to further improve the program. Mandatory training problem areas are being solved by the following actions;

(a) Lesson plans for all mandatory subjects are being rewritten in manuscript form to be used by the person receiving instruction. This method will be used to improve the mandatory training program at isolated sites where manpower shortages and shift work make carrying on formal classes extremely difficult.

(b) Makeup classes are being scheduled for personnel unable to attend formal classes due to operational commitments.

6. Operations: During the reporting period, many significant events occurred that have improved the posture of communications within the battalion.

a. A microwave system was installed between Lang Bian Mountain and Pr'line (BBM04), providing 45 VF channels. Of these, 22 will be DCA circuits and 23 will be Army Area.

b. Tropospheric scatter systems were installed between Vung Chua Mountain and Chu Lai (BBT10); Vung Ro Mountain and Nha Trang (BBT06); Vung Chua Mountain and An Khe (BBT09); and An Khe and Pleiku (BBT08).

c. An UHF system (BBH46) was established during the period to provide communications support to elements of the 101st Airborne Division during an operation near Bao Loc.

d. A VHF system (BBH62) was established from Hill 164, Cam Ranh Bay, to Dong Ba Thin north to provide additional support to subscribers in that area.

e. The backlog of overdue telephone installations at Cam Ranh Bay has been drastically reduced during this reporting period. This backlog was reduced from 290 outstanding installations to 53.

f. A new outside cable plant was completed at Dong Ba Thin. The new plant replaced WD-1 field wire and Spiral-4 cable and was engineered to be utilized with the existing switchboard AN/MTC-1 in the area.

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g. On LBI the source of primary power, previously provided by three 45 KW generators, was transferred to one 200 KW generator. All thirteen systems on the Mountain were transferred to the new power source with only one recordable outage.

h. An SB-611 was installed at the Pr'line Signal Site to augment the MSQ-73 at that location. The patching facility has thus been expanded.

i. A 100 foot section of 11-pair buried cable was installed at the Navy Market Time Base on Cam Ranh Bay Peninsula. This provides needed pairs to service administrative buildings in that area.

j. The outside cable plant at Cam Ranh Bay was completed during the reporting period by adding approximately 2000 feet of aerial 25-pair cable in the new cantonment area.

k. The annual Bob Hope show (Operation Holly) was supported by this battalion by the installation of required telephone circuits and a public address system.

l. The recent visit to Cam Ranh Bay by the President of the United States (Operation Santa Claus) was also supported by this battalion. A public address system and dedicated circuits were installed overnight. This unit subsequently received very favorable comments from higher headquarters in reference to the support rendered this operation.

7. Logistics:

a. One of the main areas of concentration during this period was the preparation for the impending CMHI's. The inspection and assistance visits to all units were increased significantly. Areas of prime interest included: PLL operations, maintenance management, weapons, handling and storage of ammunition, vehicular, generator and electronic maintenance, applicable SOP preparation and proper assignment of maintenance and supply personnel according to MOS. This program has proved to be most beneficial and successful. During this period, both C Co, 43rd Signal Battalion, and the 362nd Signal Company were inspected and each passed their respective inspections. It is most gratifying to announce that both companies received a 100% rating on the ammunition portion of the inspection. This effort of preparation is planned to be continued for the forthcoming AGI.

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b. Due to an operational requirement, the 36th Signal Company was directed to transfer its tropospheric commitment in the I Corps Tactical Zone to the 337th Signal Company in Da Nang. This involved the lateral transfer of equipment between these units, exchanging of personnel, and returning equipment no longer needed from Da Nang to Dalat and Nha Trang. This type of operation was successfully completed in the previous quarter with the transfer of the southern tropo responsibility to the 327th Signal Company at Long Binh. In order to aid in the inventory of equipment and answer any technical questions that emanated from the lateral transfer, the OIC of the tropospheric electronic maintenance shop attended the southern tropo transfer. His presence was valuable and his contributions were beneficial to both units. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, this individual was committed elsewhere and not available to attend the transfer of equipment in the northern tropo area. The transfer was completed but not as smoothly as experienced in the previous transaction.

c. The battalion office machine repair service created in late October has proven quite successful. Typewriters that were once not available for a lengthy period while worked on by the maintenance support unit are now repaired and returned to the user in a matter of days. In several instances on the spot repairs were made when the technician personally made office visits to repair equipment at the users location.

d. The supply liaison personnel attached to the S-4 office from outlying units have proven to be quite beneficial. Their actual presence at Cam Ranh Bay has greatly increased the efficiency of their respective unit supply operations. Some of the advantages realized by the arrangement are: timely follow-up of requisitions, tracer actions, turning in equipment to support maintenance activities, rapid execution of the "closed loop" program, and close liaison with the DX point, self-service store and depot. These agents also act as couriers in escorting equipment being laterally transferred between their units and others, significantly reducing the amount of misrouted and lost equipment.

e. The battalion maintenance section is continuing to stress the importance of reducing the battalion deadline rate. This section is conducting an increased amount of inspection and assistance visits to insure proper maintenance procedures are adhered to, both on equipment and in PLL operations. The PLL's are currently being reviewed and revalidated in order to delete line items which are not demand supported. This program will return vital parts to supply channels as well as reduce the zero balance percentage. Both of these measures have proven to be successful, resulting in a decrease of deadline equipment.

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8. Organizational Structure: The 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt) is composed of a Headquarters Detachment and four operational companies as follows:

Company C, 41st Signal Battalion (CA)
Company D, 43rd Signal Battalion
Company E, 43rd Signal Battalion
362nd Signal Company (Tropo)

Battalion Headquarters is located at Cam Ranh Bay. The responsibility of the Battalion encompasses the Vietnamese political provinces of Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Quang Duc, and that portion of Khanh Hoa south of Nha Trang. An exception is the 362nd Signal Company which operates troposcatter equipment through I and II Corps Tactical Zones.

SECTION II

Commanders Observations and Recommendations

Part I: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations:

Item: AN/TCC-7, 200V power supply (PP-827) failure.

Discussion: It was noted that tubes V8 and V9 in the 200V power supplies for an AN/TCC-7 terminal frequently burned out. Further investigation showed this was due to fluctuating power.

Observation: In cases where maintenance shops discover frequent loss of power supplies, attention should be directed toward regulation of the power source of the equipment.

Item: AN/GRC-50 air filter inadequacy.

Discussion: The air filters in the AN/GRC-50 radio are not fine enough to filter out dirt and sand particles in very dusty locations. Consequently, the dirt tends to build up inside the equipment. Since the blower motors do not have sealed bearings, the dirt collects on the bearings and causes premature failure.

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Observation: A system should be established to cycle systems to back-up equipment until a thorough cleaning of the operating stocks can be completed. This should be accomplished as often as required by the dust conditions. An EIR will be submitted on the bearings for the blower motors.

Item: Assembling of waveguide sections.

Discussion: When fabricating waveguide gaskets, the use of material which is too thick will cause a gap between the fittings of the waveguide, resulting in heating of waveguide and a high VSWR.

Observation: Emphasis should be placed on the use of very thin material when gaskets must be made on site, and also that the gasket must be properly placed within the waveguide fitting.

Item: Requirement for temperature control.

Discussion: During the hot seasons, the temperature inside Radio and Carrier shelters reaches 130°F to 160°F. The blowers and existing cooling measures have proven to be inadequate. Due to this problem blower motors overwork and cannot take the excessive heat, bearings and motors burn out and have to be cut off, causing even higher temperatures to build up, in the shelters. This strain on the equipment and personnel has caused an overall increase in circuit outages than if the equipment was sufficiently cooled.

Observations: Operating in a sub-tropical climate under tactical conditions without proper cooling facilities will cause a higher rate of equipment failures, and malfunctions to other related equipment and operation. Air-conditioning should be installed before the next hot season to solve the current problem of overheating equipment.

Item: 4 wire dial trunks.

Discussion: Testing and aligning new 4 wire dial trunks are a lengthy process and is often hard to accomplish in the time allocated by CAO. Proper coordination is also difficult to achieve when attempting to wire and align the circuits at the same time.

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Observation: By wiring E and M trunks into frame and then hooking up the units back to back, a technician can align and pre-test all units prior to activation. After testing and aligning are accomplished the units are able to activate on short notice. All that is required is to run a jumper from the cable pair to the E and M terminal blocks and then to the switchboard, (which can also be prewired) and then finally the first special selector band can be wired in. A lot of time is saved by having the circuit pretested before activation. After the unit is jumpered and contact is made with the distant end, all that is required is a final alignment.

c. Training and Organization: None.

d. Intelligence and Security:

Item: Security Clearances:

Discussion: An increasing emphasis on secure Automatic Digital Network operation has created a need for clearances on MOS 74A personnel in this unit. Obtaining clearances for MOS 74A personnel in the unit is difficult and time consuming.

Observation: MOS 74A personnel should be processed for clearances while still in technical training or prior to assignment in Vietnam.

Item: Classified material lost on a courier run.

Discussion: During a courier run a bag containing classified material fell out of the courier vehicle and several pages of a document were lost. The bag had been tied down but somehow came loose and fell between the rear tires of the vehicle, ripping it open.

Observation: Couriers carrying classified defense information by motor vehicle should exercise extreme caution in securing the courier bag. Tying down the bag to the vehicle does not preclude its becoming dislodged. Couriers should insure that the bag is also placed under their feet and that side curtains are affixed to the vehicle.

e. Logistics:

Item: Report of Survey officer training.

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Discussion: Experience has revealed that newly assigned junior officers have little if any experience or knowledge in conducting an investigation of a report of survey. Much time is wasted on the survey officer's part when he is frequently told to re-examine certain evidence, obtain statements or certificates and quite often return to pre-visited areas to obtain same. This not only delays the timely submission of the survey, but deprives the company commander of his officers while they are conducting the investigation.

Observation: It would be most beneficial for all newly assigned officers to attend a mandatory scheduled block of instruction on conducting reports of survey. This time invested would, in the long run, certainly be profitable for not only the reviewer of the survey but the commander as well.

Item: Lateral transfer of equipment.

Discussion: It was previously experienced that a substantial amount of equipment while being laterally transferred to other units would often be delivered to a different destination through misrouting by the air carrier and in some cases, lost. This equipment would be prepared for shipment, Transportation Control and Movement document (TCMD) prepared and turned over to the carrier (US Air Force) for movement.

Observation: This battalion has placed into operation a policy whereby the losing unit prepares the equipment for transfer, executes the TCMD, and prior to shipment, notifies the gaining unit. The gaining unit in turn dispatches a courier to accompany the equipment back to its destination. Since placed into operation, this unit has not lost a single item of equipment due to a lateral transfer. The report of survey rate has subsequently been reduced significantly.

Part II: Recommendations

1. Personnel:

a. The problem area of new missions being assigned without additional personnel authorizations being allocated as reported in the last ORLL is still prevalent. This most certainly dims the future outlook for qualified replacements, as they cannot be requisitioned for vacancies existing but not appearing on current TOE-MTOE's. Recommend emergency authorization be given for personnel in excess of allowances who are needed to accomplish mission requirements.

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b. Emphasis should be placed on the handling and processing of Personnel Actions, i.e., Requests for Extensions, Requests for Special Leaves, Requests for Circuitous Travel, and many other actions submitted. It is necessary that these actions be handled as expeditiously as possible thereby avoiding considerable confusion and personal hardships to all individuals concerned.

2. Operations: The increased emphasis on secure AUTODIN operations has created a need for security clearances on MOS 74A personnel; obtaining clearances for these personnel is difficult and time consuming. Recommend that MOS 74A personnel be processed for security clearances prior to arrival in Vietnam.

3. Training and Organization: Enlisted personnel attending tactical circuit controllers course in CONUS should receive upon completion additional training in the MSQ-73. Enlisted men tech-controllers arriving in country currently lack this training. In such cases a requirement exists to send these personnel to the MSQ-73 school in Saigon. When this occurs the services of these personnel are lost up to 7 weeks.

4. Intelligence: None.

5. Logistics: None.

SAFETY:

Frequency of vehicle accidents slightly increased during this quarter. These accidents were mainly due to congested civil traffic or poor road conditions. There was a decrease of personal injuries with six last quarter (none fatal) and four this quarter (none fatal). This unit has continued to stress safety by giving safety lectures to the units. The battalion safety officer has visited the units to stress safety and spot check safety measures being taken. Letters have been sent to the unit commanders by the Battalion Commander as a further effort to reduce the accident rate. Continued command emphasis will be made to bring the accident rate down in the future.

Maurice J. Castille
MAURICE J CASTILLE
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SOGVNG-OPT (31 Jan 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
from Headquarters, 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt) (RCS CSFOR-65)
UIC: WCD4AA

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP APO 96240 27 February 1968

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM) ATTN: SOCVOP
APO 96384

Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375
Commander in Chief, USARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR-DA), Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Transmitted herewith is one copy of , Headquarters, 73rd Signal
Battalion Report, Subject as above.

2. Concur in the Commander's observation and recommendations with the
following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Reference SECTION I, para 7d: The presence of Liaison personnel
at the Cam Ranh Bay Depot has proven very effective. This headquarters
concurs with the statement of the 73rd Signal Battalion. It is recommended
that all units establish an active liaison with their supporting depot.
This practice should expedite the receipt of equipment on requisition and
assist both the unit and the depot in all supply functions.

b. Reference SECTION II. ITEM: Assembling of Waveguide Sections;
Three hundred and fifty (350) O-Ring gaskets for waveguide sections were
provided to the 362nd EIM facility by the 21st Signal Group, (with Brigade
assistance), during the month of January. Proper supply action and control
of assets plus proper installation practices should preclude recurrence of
this problem.

c. Reference SECTION II ITEM: Requirement for temperature control;
Valid requisitions for air conditioners and follow-ups have been initiated,
however no firm delivery date has been established. Cam Ranh Bay will issue
item upon receipt.

d. Reference SECTION II ITEM: Report of Survey Officers Training;
Individual training of officers is not required in report of survey investi-
gation. Circulars 735-11, and 735-35, clearly point out the duties and
responsibilities of a survey officer.

e. Reference SECTION II, ITEM: Lateral Transfer of equipment;
21st Signal Group regulation on lateral transfers is presently being staffed,
and will be published in the near future. The regulation will spell out
procedures and responsibilities pertaining to lateral transfers of equipment
within the Group.

SCOVNG-OPT (31 Jan 68)

1st Ind

27 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,
from Headquarters, 73rd Signal Battalion (Spt) (RCS CSFOR-65)
UIC: WCD4AA

3. This report is considered adequate.

Jack M. Sabata

JACK M. SABATA
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SCCVOP (31 Jan 68) 2d Ind
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from Headquarters, 73d Signal Battalion (Spt), (RCS GSFOR-65)
(WCD4AA)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO SF 96384 10 MAR 1968

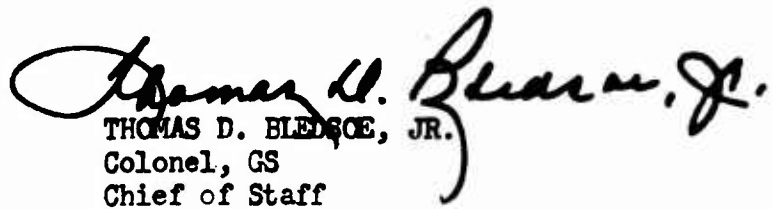
TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHOC-DN, APO
96375

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command, ATTN: SCCOP, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

1. Subject report is forwarded for your information.
2. Concur in the Commander's observations except:
Item: Report of Survey Officer Training, page 12. See paragraph
2d, 1st indorsement.

3. Concur in the Commander's recommendations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


THOMAS D. BLEDSOE, JR.
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

AVHGC-DST (31 Jan 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January
1968 (Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 24 MAR 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, 73d Signal Battalion (SPT) (WCD4AA) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning security clearances, page 12, paragraph d; and page 14, paragraph 2: Concur. Recommend Department of the Army action to institute security clearance requirements for this MOS prior to deployment of individuals to Vietnam.

b. Reference item concerning personnel, page 13, paragraph 1. 1st Signal Brigade is a USASTRATCOM Unit and not under purview of USARV G1. However, concur in comment since problem cited is common to USARV units and results from the system for obtaining personnel authorizations not being sufficiently responsive to rapidly changing requirements in a combat theater.

c. Reference item concerning tactical circuit controllers course, page 14, paragraph 3: Concur. The tactical circuit controller course in CONUS has recently been increased from 79 to 98 hours with 64 hours devoted exclusively to practical exercise training on the MSQ-73. MSQ-73 trained personnel began arriving in-country in January 1968. The training conducted in Saigon on the MSQ-73 is currently a three-week course of instruction.

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


CHARLES A. BYRD
Major, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:
HQ, 1st Sig Bde
HQ, 73d Sig Bn

31
GPOP-DT (31 Jan 68) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ 73d Sig Bn (Spt) for Period Ending
31 January 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 23 APR 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.
2. Reference 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2a; this headquarters recommends the following DA action:

a. Revise MOS specifications to include appropriate level of security clearance as a qualification for assignment in the MOS.

b. By widely disseminated message or letter reiterate field commanders' obligation to identify security clearance requirements on requisitions for replacements.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

C.L. Shortt

C.L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

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